

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 005209

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ID, CH, TW, JA

SUBJECT: EA SUMMARY - JANUARY 9, 1978

1. INDONESIAN STUDENT LEADERS PRESENT CRITICISMS OF GOI TO ADAM MALIK (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE). EMBASSY JAKARTA REPORTS THAT ONE HUNDRED STUDENT LEADERS FROM ALL OVER INDONESIA MET WITH ADAM MALIK AND OTHER LEGISLATIVE LEADERS JANUARY 7 AND PRESENTED STATEMENTS CRITICIZING THE GOVT FOR THE FAILURE OF VARIOUS POLICIES. THE STUDENTS LEFT AFTER EIGHT MINUTES WITH NO DISCUSSION OR ATTEMPT AT A DIALOGUE. MEANWHILE JAKARTA STUDENTS HAVE DEMANDED THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY RECTOR ISMAIL SUNY DETAINED JANUARY 3, TO ALLOW HIM TO PROVE HIS ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING SENIOR GOI OFFICIAL CORRUPTION. JAKARTA 332.

2. SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF CHOU EN-LAI'S DEATH: A FEW
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WREATHS, A NEW NAME FOR A LOCOMOTIVE (CONFIDENTIAL). USLO REPORTS THAT, IN MARKED CONTRAST TO THE MASSIVE WREATHS-AND-POSTERS COMMEMORATION OF PREMIER CHOU'S FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY LAST JANUARY, THE SCENE AT TIEN AN MEN THIS YEAR HAS BEEN PLACID. PEKING OBSERVED THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF CHOU'S PASSING WITH A FEW SCORE WREATHS, INSCRIPTIONS, POEMS AND SMALL CHARACTER POSTERS AROUND THE

MARTYR'S MONUMENT IN TIEN AN MEN SQUARE. FEW SEEM POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT. THE ONLY MAJOR CEREMONY WAS THE CHRISTENING OF A "CHOU EN-LAI LOCOMOTIVE" IN SHANGHAI; THE SHANGHAI FIRST PARTY SECRETARY PRESIDED AND HUA KUO-FENG CONTRIBUTED THE INSCRIPTION. OTHERWISE THE ANNIVERSARY IS BEING OBSERVED WITHIN WORK UNITS, WHICH ARE SPONSORING PLAYS, READING, AND THE LIKE. PEKING 68.

3. KMT DECIDES TO NOMINATE PREMIER CHIANG FOR PRESIDENT (CONFIDENTIAL). EMBASSY TAIPEI REPORTS THE KMT CENTRAL STANDING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED JANUARY 7 ITS INTENTION TO NOMINATE PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO AS THE PARTY'S CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT. THE EMBASSY ASSUMES CHIANG WILL ACCEPT THE NOMINATION, WHICH WILL OF COURSE INSURE HIS ELECTION. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL ELECT THE PRESIDENT ON MARCH 21. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES CHIANG DECIDED TO SUCCEED TO THE PRESIDENCY BECAUSE THE SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE OF BEING HEAD OF STATE DURING WHAT WILL PROBABLY BE A DIFFICULT PERIOD IN BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS PROVED IRRESISTIBLE. HIS DECISION MAY ALSO BE PART OF A LARGER PLAN FOR GOVT REORGANIZATION REFLECTED IN RECENT PARTY PERSONNEL CHANGES AND RUMORS OF A CABINET RESHUFFLE FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. TAIPEI 122.

4. SONODA TO VISIT TEHRAN (CONFIDENTIAL). THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN TEHRAN HAS TOLD THE U.S. EMBASSY THAT FOREIGN CONFIDENTIAL

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MINISTER SONODA WILL VISIT IRAN JANUARY 14-15 ON A PRIVATE VISIT. SONODA WILL HAVE LUNCH WITH THE IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, BUT NO OTHER ACTIVITIES OR MEETINGS ARE PLANNED. THE JAPANESE EMBASSY EXPECTS THE USUAL RANGE OF TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS. TEHRAN 264. VANCE

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